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New York, NY 10280
January 30, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Ln., Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 827-6870 fax

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to urge you to please grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

This means please stop purchasing meat from downed cattle--non-ambulatory cows who are too sick or injured to even stand--for use in federal programs. It is impossible to move downed cattle humanely; instead, they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, causing injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and ligaments. And recent evidence shows that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease), a condition that is linked to a fatal illness in humans.

For the sake of everyone's well being, humans and animals alike, please take action on this issue.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,


Ginny Becker

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